

PRESS RELEASE

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BAM's FUNDRAISER BREAKS ALL-TIME RECORD: OVER \$685,000 RAISED

Bellevue, WA – On July 27, 2011, more than 400 supporters came out in celebration of Bellevue Arts Museum, the Pacific Northwest's center for the exploration of art, craft and design. Artful Evening, BAM's largest fundraiser of the year, raised over \$685,000; the highest amount in the event's history and a testament to the Museum's growing community support.

"The commitment of our community to BAM is simply amazing," says Anne Kilcup, President of the Board of Trustees. "It shows how important the Museum has become to the vitality of Bellevue and the greater region, and the high regard people hold for this year's honorees, Susan Thurston & family and Thurston Charitable Foundation, as well as honorary co-chairs Angela and Carl Sutter. We're immensely grateful to all of our supporters."

The evening kicked off with a Curator Tour of the auction art led by Director of Curatorial Affairs/Artistic Director Stefano Catalani and Curator Nora Atkinson. At the following champagne reception guests had the opportunity to bid on over 130 unique art objects, many of which were donated by this year's talented BAM artsfair artists. The festivities continued at The Westin Bellevue with a delicious dinner, program and live auction featuring works and experiences by celebrated artists, including Dale Chihuly, Preston Singletary, Julie Speidel and many more. The evening was emceed by Meeghan Black, the host of King 5's popular *Evening Magazine*. Nationally recognized auctioneer Kip Toner officiated the live auction. Guests included longtime supporters of BAM from both the Eastside and Seattle as well as new friends.

Artful Evening has grown to be BAM's largest, single fundraising activity. Formerly called the Patron Party, the event raised \$75,000 in 2006. Over the past three years, BAM has consistently generated more than \$550,000 through its annual auction gala with this year's event reaching an all-time high. Roughly two-thirds of the Museum's annual budget comes from contributed income, about one-third of which is brought in through Artful Evening. Proceeds from the event support exhibitions and community programs and help keep Bellevue Arts Museum accessible and affordable for all to enjoy.

"It is because of the dedication of so many people, organizations and businesses that we are able to enrich the lives of tens of thousands of people every year," says Catalani. "We cannot thank our patrons enough for their generosity and enthusiasm and look forward to continuing to connect people of all ages with extraordinary works by Northwest artists while bringing national and international exhibitions to our community."

Artful Evening is generously sponsored by GLY Construction; Davis Wright Tremaine, LLP; Tiffany & Co. and Barrier Motors.

About Bellevue Arts Museum

Bellevue Arts Museum is the Pacific Northwest's center for the exploration of art, craft, and design. The Museum connects people of all ages with the extraordinary works of Northwest artists while bringing national and international collections to its community. Dynamic educational programs provide unique opportunities to connect with art and artists; past or present, experimental or established. Each July, BAM hosts one of the largest and most treasured art festivals of the year, the Bellevue Arts Museum artsfair. BAM is located in the heart of downtown Bellevue, provides free parking and is wheelchair accessible. Please visit www.bellevuearts.org for details.